

Renewable Energy Permitting

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Regulatory Innovation & Assistance**



Agenda



- **The Basics**
- **Permitting Pathways**
- **What is New?**
- **Impediments**

The Basics

250 Megawatt Solar Project

+/- 190,000 homes

1,100 to 2,500 acres

+/- 800,000 solar panels

Panels fixed-tilt or dual axle

\$200 - \$350 million installed

250 - 350 construction workers

Permanent employees 3 - 5

Useful life approximately 30 years

250 Megawatt Wind Project

+/- 190,000 homes

8,000 acres project area

100 2.5 MW Turbines

Turbine footprint +/- 150 acres

\$200 – 400 million installed

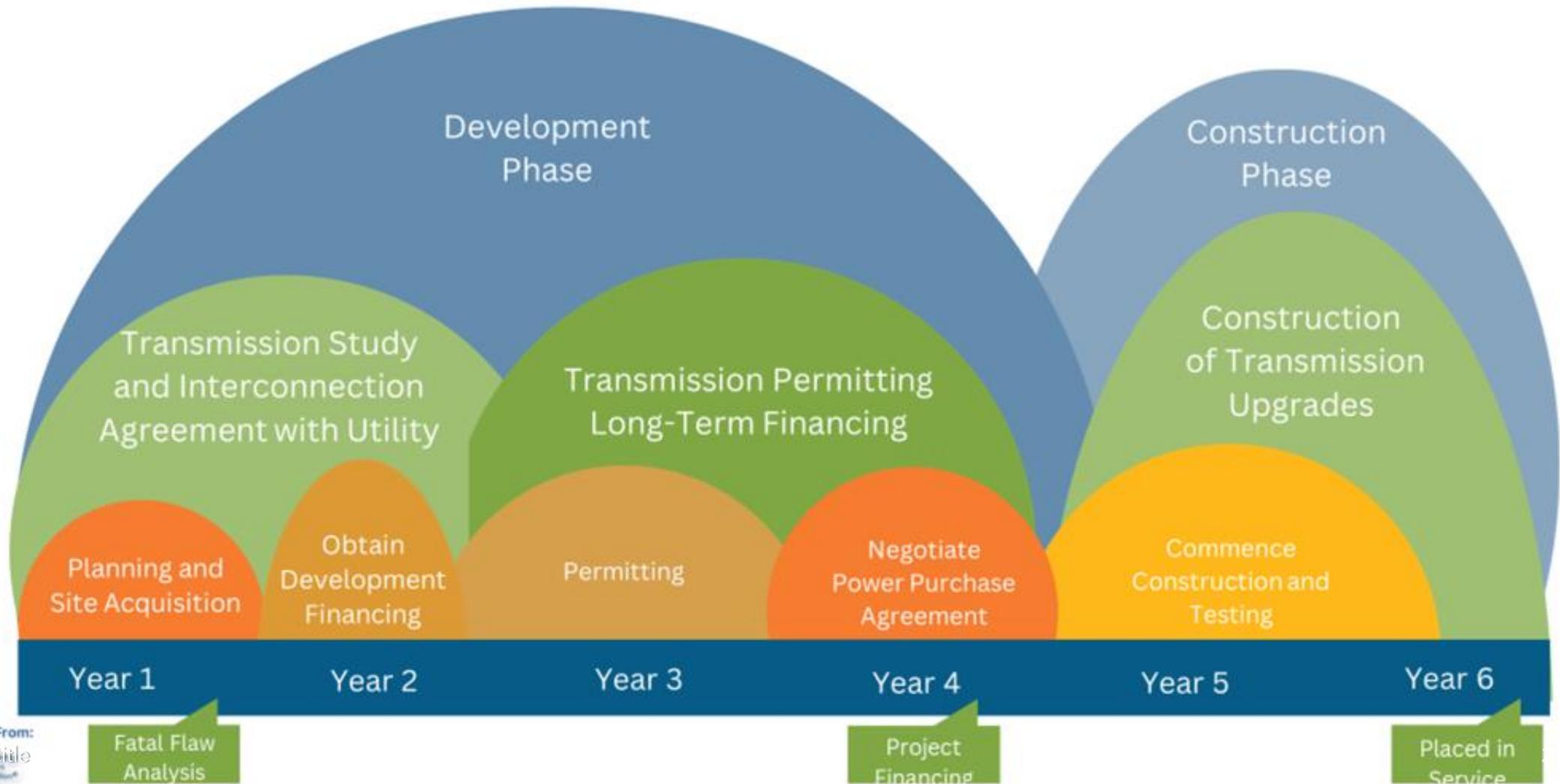
250 – 300 construction workers

10 – 15 permanent employees

Useful life approximately 20 years

Development Timeline

250 Megawatt Project



Permitting Local Jurisdiction

6 - 12 months

- Local jurisdictions may have a specific renewable energy ordinance and zoning may or may not allow renewable energy projects. If allowed requires a conditional use permit.
 - Preapplication meeting
 - Community and Tribal consultation
 - Permit Application and SEPA Checklist
 - Public and agency review
 - SEPA determination
 - Permit decision
- Other state and federal permits are applied for individually. Local agencies ensures permit compliance and mitigation

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

One-to-two-year process

- Preapplication Process
- Application for Site Certification
- SEPA Determination
 - Declaration of Nonsignificance
 - Declaration of Significance
- Land Use Hearing
- Adjudication Process
- Governor Decision
- Site Certification & Permits

EFSEC KEY DECISIONS

SEPA

- Impacts
 - Not significant
 - Significant
- Not Significant
 - Expedited
 - No adjudication
- Significant
 - EIS
 - Adjudication

Land Use

- Land Use Consistency
 - Consistent
 - Not consistent
- Not Consistent
 - Adjudication

Adjudication

- Similar to trial
- Pretrial filings & motions
- Standing
- Expert witness
- Public testimony

What is New in Permitting?

- **House Bill 1216**

- Authorizes Ecology to lead “fully coordinated” permitting process
 - - Includes SEPA
 - - Cost reimbursement agreement
- Ecology programmatic environmental impact statements for:
 - - Wind
 - - Solar
 - - Renewable hydrogen
 - - Battery storage
- Consolidated Clean Energy Permit Application
- Interagency Clean Energy Siting Council
- Renewable energy projects can be designated as “projects of Statewide significance”



What is Holding us Back?



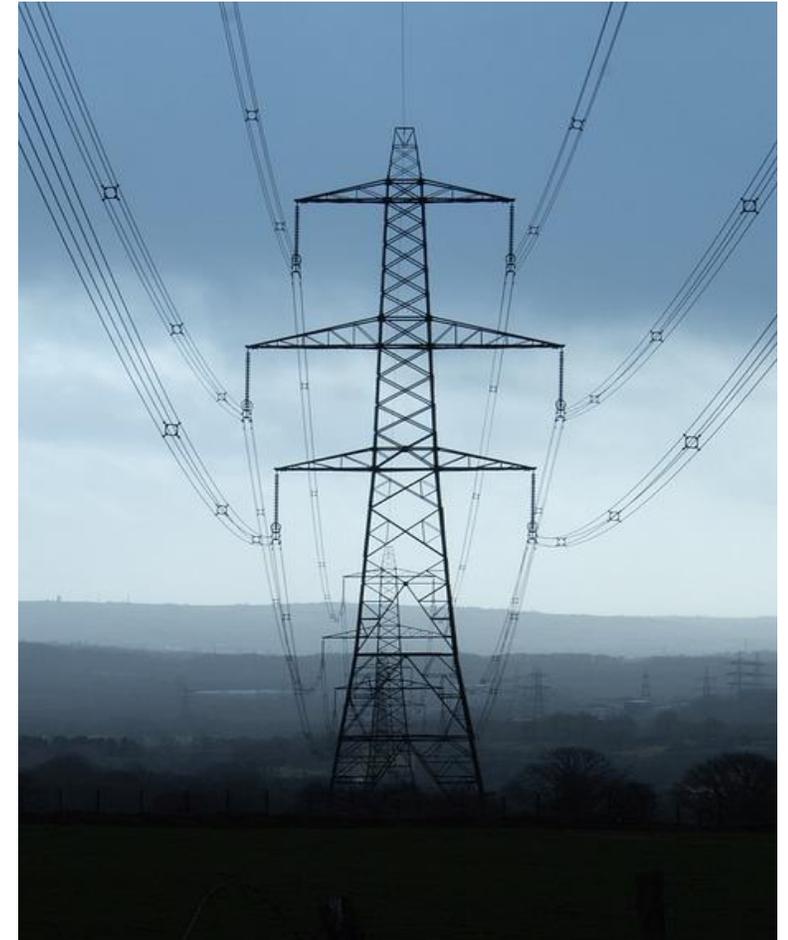
TRANSMISSION

Our transmission system is designed around large centralized power plants

- Hydro
- Nuclear
- Coal
- Gas

Wind and Solar requires a Regional approach

- New Transmission and upgrade existing system
- Northwest Regional transmission system
- Distributed local generation



Do We Need More Renewable Energy?

Modeling forecasts electricity demand in Washington could grow by 13-20% by 2030 and by 2050 up to 92% (Washington State Energy Strategy, 2021)

Washington's power needs will increase 97 percent by 2050; we will have to import a huge amount of renewable power. (Glenn Blackmon, Dept. of Commerce, Senate Testimony, 1/13/2023)

Why?

- The Clean Energy Transformation Act mandates carbon-neutral electricity by 2030 and 100% non-carbon emitting generation by 2045.
- Organic growth and demand for electricity

Where?

- Due to the variability of renewable energy, we should draw from a mix of NW regional generation sources



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Thank you